



VIRGINIA
HEALTH CARE
FOUNDATION

How to Talk with Individuals and Families about Medicaid/FAMIS

The Basics

A highly effective way to start talking to people about Medicaid or FAMIS is to ask, “Have you heard about Virginia’s New Health Coverage for Adults?”

Many Virginians have not heard about the new Medicaid eligibility criteria for adults, or even the longstanding Medicaid/FAMIS programs for children and pregnant women. Or, if they have, they do not believe they will qualify.

Some people may have applied in the past, but were denied. Still others may be confused about when or how to apply. Many families and individuals may need help completing the application, navigating the process and/or understanding the value of comprehensive health insurance. You may be just the right person to reach out to them and make the difference!

- Now, many more adult Virginians (*age 19 – 64*) are eligible for Medicaid. Individuals can earn about \$17,200/year and still qualify. An adult in a household of 3 earning just over \$29,400/year can qualify. As a reminder, kids and pregnant women in a family of three can qualify if their household earns up to about \$43,700/year.
- Financial eligibility is solely based on monthly household income, before taxes.
- For this New Adult Coverage, assets and resources (*such as a person’s home, land, car and retirement accounts*) do not count against someone’s eligibility. This is a game changer for many Virginians, particularly those in rural communities.
- Medicaid is comprehensive health insurance – it covers doctor visits, hospitalizations, ER visits, prescriptions and more.

How to Respond to “No, I don’t want Medicaid.”

- If you are or have been employed, you’ve earned it! Medicaid is your tax dollars working for you.
- Medicaid is a benefit to use when you need it and doesn’t have to be for the long-term. Use it to help get you on your feet, back to work, or working more hours.
- Medicaid is a health insurance program, not welfare.
- Medicaid is low-cost or free health care. With it, you don’t have to choose between paying for groceries and other needs and paying for health care or medicine.
- Medicaid gives you and your family peace of mind from health problems and big medical bills and/or medical debt.